

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, it was requested to change the title. In view of the request, the title has been changed.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, the disclosure was objected to. In view of the objection, the specification has been amended.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 2 and 5-7 were objected to. In view of the objection, claims 2 and 7 have been amended. The subject matter of claim 6 amended as suggested by the Examiner has been incorporated into claim 1.

In regard to claim 5, as stated by the Examiner, this structure is disclosed on page 20, lines 26-29 of the specification. As stated on page 20, line 25 of the specification, since the image reading unit 300 is not securely supported, the metal support frame 220 is attached to the sheet finishing unit 200. Therefore, the sheet finisher is provided with the mounting member for mounting the image reading unit on the sheet finishing unit, as recited in claim 5. Claim 5 now cancelled and incorporated into claim 1 has not been changed.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mui et al. In paragraph 5 of the Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mui et al. in view of Isobe et al. In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 6 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections and indication of allowability, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and claims 5 and 6 has been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 7-9 are allowable over the cited references.

In view of the cited references, new claims 10-12 have been filed. Claims 10-12 are allowable over the cited references, as explained below.

In Mui et al., as shown in Fig. 2, a printer output tray 26 and a handler output tray 32 are arranged in the same direction, while a scanner 52 is arranged perpendicular to the output trays 26, 32. The handler output tray 32 is simply attached to a handler housing 30. Also, the handler housing 30 and the scanner 52 are spaced rearwardly from a printer 22.

In claim 10, it is defined that the second discharge stacker is supported to rotate upwardly to open an upper part of the first discharge stacker. Accordingly, the sheet delivered on the first discharge stacker can be taken out easily. In Mui et al., the handler output tray 32 is simply attached to a handler housing 30. There is no explanation that the handler output tray 32 can rotate relative to the handler housing 30. Thus, the structure now recited in claim 10 is not disclosed in Mui et al.

In Isobe et al., a second stacking section 325 is formed in a sheet processing apparatus 300. However, the second stacking section 325 is simply attached to the frame of the sheet processing apparatus 300, not to rotate relative to the sheet processing apparatus. The feature now claimed in claim 10 is not disclosed in Isobe et al.

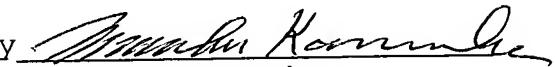
As explained above, the feature now claimed in claim 10 is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Therefore, even if the cited references are combined, claim 10 is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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